

**REMARKS**

Initially, applicant would like to thank the Examiner for his indication that claims 3-5 and 12-15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations from the claims from which they depend. Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitation of claim 3 and amended claim 10 to include the limitation of claim 12. Both claims 3 and 12 have been amended to recite that the acid treatment time is no more than 40 minutes which is set forth in FIG. 3 of the application and discussed in paragraphs [0028] and [0031] thereof. Claim 1 includes that the acid treatment be for no less than 20 minutes as discussed in these paragraphs. The claim dependencies have been changed to either depend directly or indirectly from claims 1 and 10.

Applicant notes that a claim 19 was not included in the original application. Applicant requests that the Examiner note this when renumbering the claims at issue.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone Applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

Application No.: 10/783,245

Docket No.: OSTEONICS 3.0-452

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: January 3, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Raymond W. Augustin

Registration No.: 28,588

LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,

KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP

600 South Avenue West

Westfield, New Jersey 07090

(908) 654-5000

Attorney for Applicant

718088\_1.DOC